U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal Security Message for U.S. Citizens - Events in Mali and Effects on Neighboring Countries January 17, 2013

The U.S. Embassy encourages U.S. citizens in Senegal to remain vigilant in light of recent events in neighboring Mali and the potential for retaliatory actions towards Westerners in the region. The U.S. Embassy recommends U.S. citizens in Senegal review the current Worldwide Caution, specifically the portion on West African, and the recent Travel Warning for Mali available on travel.state.gov.

There is currently no specific information on threats against U.S. citizens in Senegal. It is prudent to be aware of events occurring in neighboring countries. As a precaution, U.S. citizens in Senegal should exercise caution when in public areas, particularly areas frequented by westerners such as: hotels, nightclubs, and various forms of public transportation including ferries. Stay tuned to media reports, be aware of your surroundings, and report suspicious activity or unattended packages to the police. As always, avoid demonstrations should you come upon them.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the <u>U.S. Embassy Dakar</u> website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, <u>Bureau of Consular Affairs website</u> where you can find the current <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, <u>Travel Warning</u>, Travel Alerts, and <u>Country Specific Information</u>. Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on <u>Facebook</u> as well, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through <u>iTunes</u> and the <u>Android</u> marketplace, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to consulardakar@state.gov. The Embassy telephone number is +221-33-829-2100. For After Hours Emergency, please call Tel: +221-33-829-2209 and ask to speak to the duty officer.